

THE HIALEAH CERT PROGRAM

What is CERT? It is families helping themselves and neighbors helping neighbors to prepare, respond and recover in their own neighborhood.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program trains people to be prepared for emergency situations in their community and neighborhood. CERT members give critical support to first responders in emergencies, provide immediate assistance to victims, collect disaster information to support first responder efforts and provide that first neighborhood help in the immediate hours following a major emergency.

Why CERT? CERT training gives you the decision-making and physical skills to offer immediate assistance to family members, neighbors and business associates in an efficient and effective manner without placing yourself in unnecessary danger.

Hurricanes Andrew, Hugo and Floyd, Katrina, in addition to tornadoes, large wildfires, hazardous materials incidents and acts of terrorism (WTC) have clearly shown during the initial hours following the disaster, emergency personnel are overloaded, unable to reach areas or are short of personnel to respond. Others often have had to pitch in to help persons in their immediate neighborhood

When, how and where is CERT? A CERT team is your neighbors and business colleagues, who following training, initiate neighborhood or business teams, whose actions make a difference. Following a 21 hour basic training program and on-going training and drills, the team can manage utilities, put out small fires, provide lifesaving interventions, perform basic search and rescue operations, assist in damage assessment, evacuation and rapid sheltering. Administrative support and organizing positions are also available. CERT is active in over 30 Florida counties with over 5,000 neighborhood-trained personnel. It is a "local" program funded by FEMA, requested by your city government and managed by your fire department,

If you are interested call the CERT program manager at (305) 883-5905 for further information.